**CENTENNIAL**  
(Colorado)  
B. RITTER - D. JONES  
104,105 sq. miles  
5,024, 748 pop.

Starts strong in competition, but loses ground to more ambitious runners; good groundwork for charter environment and alternative teacher cert; history of results could point to a win in initial round and perhaps a top 4 showing.

Odds  2:1 *Favored to show*  
Pays: $376,591,499

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**CAPITOL CITY**  
(Washington, DC)  
A. FENTY – M. RHEE  
599,657 pop.  
68.3 sq. miles

Often overlooked, but fierce competitor; allows charters to succeed and provides choice; hampered by union work rules and political infighting, but robust multi-tiered training environment produces results; runs to win, look for a garland in CC’s future.

Odds  2:1 *Favored to show*  
Pays: $112,494,840

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**SMALL WONDER**  
(Delaware)  
J. MARKELL – L. LOWERY  
885,122 pop.  
2,490 sq. miles

Makes a lot of promises; runs with union support, which adds to the load; not welcoming to charters and offers no fixes to their law; running in lock-step with unions may slow turnaround plans in the long run; teacher evaluations much praised but a horse race isn’t won on how good they look, but whether they can run the course.

Odds  10:1  
Pays: $107,268,274

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**SUNSHINE**  
(Florida)  
C. CRIST - E. SMITH  
18,537,969 pop.  
65,795 sq. miles

One of today’s favored contenders; long-term, results are rosy; teacher evaluations and certification are strong points, but charter landscape can be seen as a challenge; may start sluggish, moves quickly to the front of the pack.

Odds  2:1 *Favored to show*  
Pays: $1,141,622,870
**GEORGIA PEACH**
(Georgia)
S. PERDUE - K. COX
9,829,211 pop.
59,425 sq. miles

Owners and trainers paint a pretty picture, but Georgia Peach has a lot of rough edges; charters have limited options and inequities abound; good teacher evaluation plans from the top are married by political opposition and low LEA buy-in could mean trouble; likely no winner’s circle appearance.

Odds  10:1
Pays: $462,288,921

**BORN ON THE BAYOU**
(Louisiana)
B. JINDAL - P. PASTOREK
4,410,796 pop.
51,885 sq. miles

Another real contender for a victory lap, BOTB cross-trains to get results on many different tracks; strong on charter schools, teacher evaluations and certification; real example of turnaround success since 2004; a safe bet.

Odds  2:1 *Favored to show
Pays: $314,453,326

**LINCOLN'S LAND**
(Illinois)
P. QUINN - C. KOCH
12,910,409 pop.
57,918 sq. miles

With eyes fixed on the future, LL rarely wins in the present; trainers offer promises now for a big payoff, but this horse only pushes through in the final seconds; charters are hobbled and unions block a true winning equation for evaluations; alterations in training of late will pay no dividends in the long run.

Odds  20:1
Pays: $510,128,396

**SPIRIT OF AMERICA**
(Massachusetts)
D. PATRICK - M. CHESTER
6,593,587 pop.
10,555 sq. miles

Strong history of standards, SOA stumbles with charter school offerings and hides their true weakness in teacher evaluations behind flowery language; SOA does offer an abundance of routes for teacher certification and is implementing turnaround plans to immediate affect. Perhaps next round.

Odds  5:1
Pays: $287,000,349

**KENTUCKY GENTLEMAN**
(Kentucky)
S. BESHEAR - T. HOLLIDAY
4,314,113 pop.
40,409 sq. miles

SCRATCH
**EMPIRE BUILDER**
(New York)
D. PATTERSON - D. STEINER
19,541,453 pop.
54,555 sq. miles

Strong charter support, but hobbled by unions and puppet legislators when asked to kick into high gear; trainers leave too much on the shoulders of LEAs in hopes they will change without being told to; minimal student growth requirements dictated by unions may lead to a fall; too big to fail?

Odds   5:1
Pays: $830,700,000

**HEART OF IT ALL**
(Ohio)
T. STRICKLAND - D. DELISLE
11,542,645 pop.
44,825 sq. miles

A true middle-of-the-pack runner, never reaching, never falling; half-truths and lies cover truth of charter support; lack of specifics regarding teachers leaves much to be desired; no real workout regimen could lead to continued lackluster performance.

Odds   20:1
Pays: $409,563,455

**TAR HEEL**
(North Carolina)
B. PERDUE - J. ST. CLAIR ATKINSON
9,380,884 pop.
53,865 sq. miles

A weak entrant that slipped through the cracks; no charter support or growth; vague teacher evaluation goals with lack of clarity on discipline; no real alternative certification path for would-be teachers; low expectation to show.

Odds:  20:1
Pays: $469,485,456

**INDEPENDENCE**
(Pennsylvania)
E. RENDELL - G. ZAHORCHAK
12,604,767 pop.
46,055 sq. miles

Another surprise runner; Independence supports charters at the top, but allows locals to block their success; lofty goals for teacher evaluations may not be possible in the given time frame; may push hard at the top of the race, but whither in the final lap.

Odds   10:1
Pays: $399,902,529
LITTLE RHODY  
(Rhode Island)  
D. CARCIERI – D. GIST  
1,053,209 pop.  
1,545 sq. miles  

Has made a big splash this racing season, though with most change coming since R2TT application; aggressive when tying teacher evaluation to student data; slows when placed with stronger charter school environments; shows well, but can be sluggish in the long run.

Odds  10:1  
Pays: $126,978,456

PALMETTO  
(South Carolina)  
M. SANFORD - J. REX  
4,561,242 pop.  
32,020.1 sq. miles  

Inequities trump strengths in Palmetto's racing abilities; weak on charter environment and coasting on “plans” for teacher evaluation changes that offer no solid use of student growth to grade teacher effectiveness; no upfront workout for this horse likely means no showing at the finish.

Odds  50:1  
Pays: $299,841,083

THE VOLUNTEER  
(Tennessee)  
P. BREDESEN - T. WEBB  
6,214,888 pop.  
42,169 sq. miles  

Analysts have pulled for Volunteer, but have been blinded by a positive attitude and gee-whiz-git-r-done spirit; don’t be fooled by faulty and incomplete reports on charters; much to say about value added model and compensation systems, but will it really lead to pay for performance and a pay day for TN?

Odds  5:1  
Pays: $501,792,892

* “Pays” figure drawn from amount requested by each state in their ‘Race to the Top’ application

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